
Quarter 1 2026/27 Performance Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor K. J. May
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Hannah Corredor, Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Services
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Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Council Priorities	All
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that

The overview of Quarter 1 performance for the period April to June 2026 against the Council Plan priorities, as detailed in Appendix 1 be noted.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are a set of corporate measures which are organised by the priorities set out in the Bromsgrove District Council Plan 2024–2027. The summary table for quarterly performance can be found in Appendix 1 which includes the current and previous quarters data.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 The corporate measures are structured under the Council Plan priorities:
- Economic Development
 - Environment
 - Housing
 - Community Safety
 - Organisational Priorities

Delivery of Council Plan (Measures)

- 3.2 An assessment of our performance measures over the last quarter offers insight into progress, stability, and challenges across each priority area, informing assurance on delivery against the Council Plan.
- 3.3 As part of the annual review of the Corporate Performance Framework, several performance measures have been added and removed for 2026/27. Members should note these changes when comparing performance trends with previous years.
- 3.4 This ensures that the framework remains relevant, reflects current service priorities, and focuses on the indicators that best demonstrate the Council's performance and the outcomes being achieved for residents.
- 3.5 In addition, a corporate measures directory which provides definitions, examples and source data for our corporate performance suite has been compiled which has been added as an Appendix 3 to this report.

Economic Development:

- 3.6 **ED-01/02** The business grant funding performance measures track grants funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2026, with figures reported cumulatively. Businesses apply for funding and, if successful, receive an award confirmed through a funding agreement. "Business Grant funding awarded (£)" measures the total value of these confirmed awards. Businesses then deliver their approved projects and submit claims to receive the grant. "Business Grant funding – % spent" measures the proportion of the total grant funding available that businesses have claimed and received. There is a natural delay between funding being awarded and paid, which largely depends on how quickly each business completes its funded project and submits its claim. Reporting against these measures will end after Quarter 2 2026/27, when the UK Shared Prosperity Fund closes.
- 3.6.1 **ED-01/02** One Innovation Lighthouse grant was awarded during the quarter, with a further application approved. As remaining funding is restricted to programme participants, the budget is unlikely to be fully utilised, with any underspend reallocated to other UKSPF projects.
- 3.6.2 **ED-03/04/05** As this is a new programme, no grants have yet been approved. Round 1 of the fund opened during Quarter 1 and attracted 71 applications, of which 66 met the eligibility criteria. Applications have now been assessed, and the grant panel is scheduled to meet at the beginning of Quarter 2 2026/27 to determine funding awards. Subject to

approval, the first grant payments are expected to be issued from Quarter 3 2026/27 onwards.

Environment:

- 3.7 **EN-01** Provisional Quarter 1 data indicates a significant increase in residual waste collected, alongside higher garden waste tonnages and recycling levels that remain broadly comparable with the same period last year. As Worcestershire County Council provides waste data on a monthly basis, seasonal and year-on-year comparisons can be undertaken. Initial analysis has identified a notable variation from established collection patterns, and further investigation is underway with Worcestershire County Council to understand the underlying causes and validate the reported figures.
- 3.7.1 **EN-02** Fly-tipping incidents remain high, with several significant incidents reported during the quarter, some requiring notification to the Environment Agency due to their scale and volume. WRS continues to make progress in investigating one of the largest sites and, in partnership with Environmental Services, is developing a Fly-tipping Strategy that will establish the overarching principles for preventing, investigating, and addressing fly-tipping across the area.
- 3.7.2 **EN-02/03** Clearance performance was impacted by a small number of large-scale incidents that each required several days to remove. The quarterly trend follows the pattern observed since WRS assumed enforcement responsibilities, with reported breaches typically increasing in Quarter 1 each year.
- 3.7.3 **EN-05** Fewer Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued during the quarter, reflecting a reduction in incidents where sufficient evidence was secured in the preceding period. In addition, a number of cases that could have resulted in an FPN are instead progressing towards potential prosecution, where this is considered the more appropriate enforcement response. The average figure is provided for comparative purposes only and does not represent a target, as FPNs should only be issued where supported by the evidence and circumstances of each case.
- 3.7.4 **EN-06** Quarter 1 2026/27 performance for households supported by energy advice service is below both the previous quarter and the same period last year, largely reflecting lower seasonal demand for energy advice services during the warmer months. Officers will continue to promote the service through Act on Energy and monitor demand trends throughout the year.

Housing:

- 3.8 **HS-01** Performance for major planning applications was 75% during Quarter 1, with three of four applications determined within the statutory timescale. While this represents a decrease from Quarter 4 100% performance, only one major application was determined during that period. Current performance remains well above the Government target of 60%, and officers continue to work proactively with applicants to secure extensions of time where appropriate to support timely and well-considered decision-making.
- 3.8.1 **HS-02** Performance for minor planning applications was 77.4% during Quarter 1, with 96 of 124 applications determined within the statutory timescale. Whilst this is lower than Quarter 4 performance of 87%, a higher volume of applications was determined this quarter (124 compared with 107). Performance remains above the Government target, and officers continue to work proactively with applicants to secure extensions of time where appropriate, supporting timely and effective decision-making.
- 3.8.2 **HS-03/04** Since June 2024, the majority of planning enforcement functions have been delivered by Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) on behalf of the Council, working closely with Development Management officers to investigate and resolve alleged breaches of planning control. The Council's adopted Enforcement Plan (January 2024) provides the framework for prioritising cases according to the seriousness of the breach. Enforcement cases can vary considerably in complexity and timescales, with some resolved quickly and others requiring detailed investigation, negotiation, planning applications, appeals, or legal action. As a result, performance is focused on securing appropriate planning outcomes and effective case management rather than achieving fixed completion targets.
- 3.8.3 **HS-03** More planning enforcement cases were opened during Quarter 1 (35) compared with Quarter 4 (24). This continues the trend observed since WRS assumed responsibility for the service, with reported breaches typically increasing during Quarter 1 each year. Cases may be opened in response to alleged breaches of planning control, untidy land complaints, or other matters within the scope of planning enforcement legislation.
- 3.8.4 **HS-04** Marginally more planning enforcement cases were closed during Quarter 1 (30) compared with Quarter 4 (28). Cases may be closed for a variety of reasons, including where investigations conclude through immunity, informal resolution, service of a notice, direct action, or prosecution. The measure also includes untidy land cases falling

within the remit of the Town and Country Planning Act and ASB legislation.

- 3.8.5 **HS-05** Performance for building control applications was 100% during Quarter 1, with all applications determined within the required statutory timescales. Statutory reports were also submitted to the Building Safety Regulator as required, ensuring continued compliance with regulatory obligations.
- 3.8.6 **HS-06/07** Performance remains above the Quarter 1 position last year, with demand remaining relatively stable due to a continued shortage of affordable housing.

Community Safety:

- 3.9 **CS-01/02** Crime data is sourced from Police.uk, sits outside the Council's control, and is subject to reporting delays. Figures are presented separately for recorded crime (excluding ASB) and ASB, with trends potentially influenced by reporting practices and police activity. Commentary from the Community Safety Team and relevant North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership insights provide context on local trends and preventative work, members to note that some Community Safety Partnership information cannot be shared in full.
- 3.9.1 **CS-01** Crime levels reported quarterly to North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership were broadly in line with expected levels. The reported increase in business robbery is likely due to changes in police recording practices rather than a genuine rise in offending.
- 3.9.2 **CS-01** In Bromsgrove, an increase in other theft offences in Barnt Green & Hopwood Ward was largely attributable to incidents of making off without payment at Hopwood Park Motorway Services and is not currently considered an emerging local crime trend.
- 3.9.3 **CS-01** An increase in residential burglary was reported in Aston Fields Ward (6 offences compared with none previously). The majority of offences were linked to a single incident.
- 3.9.4 **CS-02** ASB data from Police.UK has not been publicly published since March 2026; however, quarterly analysis provided to North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership identified a small number of localised hotspots across Bromsgrove.
- 3.9.5 **CS-02** Lickey Hills Ward experienced ASB linked to young people accessing an abandoned building in Blackwell. The issue has been

raised through the Community Safety Partnership, and preventative actions are being progressed.

3.9.6 **CS-02** Drakes Cross Ward saw ASB concentrated around ongoing neighbour disputes in Shawfield, Hollywood. Vehicle nuisance and youth-related incidents were also recurring themes.

3.9.7 **CS-02** Sanders Park Ward recorded the highest concentration of repeat-location ASB, with youth-related and alcohol-related incidents increasing in Bromsgrove town centre. Rooftop access and e-scooter nuisance continue to be monitored through local partnership forums.

Organisational Priorities:

3.10 **OR-01** Council Tax collection rates are largely driven by Direct Debit uptake which for Bromsgrove sits at 81% of bill payers. Collection over a ten month, rather than a twelve-month, period is considered in setting the target. Collection levels and recovery of outstanding debt is otherwise driven by staff capacity within the team, and this is currently not optimal. A review is being undertaken with planned improvement in collection rates which are above sector and national averages but, in line with these averages have seen a small decline in the last year.

3.10.1 **OR-02** Business Rate collection levels are below target by 1.3% and below the level achieved at Quarter 1 last year by almost 3.8%. This mirrors end of year performance for 2025/26 which, over the year, nevertheless outperformed national and sector averages. A review will be completed ahead of Quarter 2 to identify if performance and levels of income over the year are likely to be impacted.

3.10.2 **OR-03/04/05** Local authority error rates remain low due to robust quality assurance procedures. Quarter 1 processing times increased following a Civica Open Revenues system fault and a slight rise in the complexity of new claims; however, the system issue is expected to be resolved imminently, with performance anticipated to return to normal levels in Quarter 2 onwards.

3.11 For some measures, there are known timing constraints on data availability. Community Safety figures are sources from verified external data and are subject to a time lag, meaning that the latest quarter may not be available at the time of reporting. These are reflected in Appendix 1.

3.12 Alignment between the Council Plan and Service Business Planning reporting has been strengthened, improving transparency, accessibility, and strategic alignment. This is reflected in the Quarter 1

2026/27 performance measures, with the Council introducing a refined approach to quarterly performance reporting, with measures aligned to the Bromsgrove District Council Plan 2024-2027 and the Local Outcome Framework.

- 3.13 The quarterly performance reports provide an opportunity to recognise both areas for improvement and areas of strong performance. Members to note that the information from these reports will be used to develop an annual report which will provide a public-facing performance overview, highlighting key achievements and outcomes against the Council Plan.
- 3.14 The Council Plan confirms that progress will be monitored quarterly (where data is available) and reported through the Cabinet and scrutiny arrangements. This report supports that approach, with Appendix 1 providing the summary view of quarterly corporate performance.
- 3.15 Following the commitment set out in the Quarter 4 report, a process has been established to monitor and report progress against Council motions through the Quarterly Performance Report. From Quarter 1 2026/27, Members will receive regular updates on the implementation and status of agreed actions arising from Council motions.
- 3.16 This section provides an update on motions considered during the quarter and the actions taken to progress them.

Motion	Lead	Due Date/Status
Officers to work with members of the Electoral Matters Committee on a Working Group to investigate the matters raised in the Motion	Darren Whitney & Melissa Basset	14 th October 2026 Ongoing
Response		
The Electoral Matters Committee met on 11 June 2026 and agreed the scope and timetable for the Working Group. The Working Group also had its first meeting to consider the scope of the work to consider future local governance as proposed by officers, and next steps.		
Motion	Lead	Due Date/Status
Progress with the Motion to be added to Power BI to monitor	Helen Mole	9 th July 2026 Completed
Response		
A process has been established to report progress against Council motions through the Quarterly Performance Report		

from Quarter 1 2026/27 onwards. Updates will include the status of agreed actions and any outcomes arising from the Electoral Matters Committee's recommendations to Council in October.
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4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Finance and performance reporting will continue to be aligned, with this report sitting alongside the quarterly financial reports.
- 4.2 Where performance pressures are identified in demand led services, these are monitored alongside budget forecasts to ensure emerging financial impacts are understood early and reflected in financial planning

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

6. OTHER – IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

- 6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report in relation to Local Government Reorganisation or Devolution. The performance reporting arrangements outlined in this report support the Council's ongoing governance and assurance frameworks and provide continuity in monitoring delivery against current Council Plan priorities

Local Outcome Framework – Core outcome metrics

- 6.2 The Local Outcome Framework (LOF) provides a set of national performance measures, enabling the Council to understand local performance in the context of comparable authorities across key outcome areas.
- 6.2.1 The core outcome metrics set out below are drawn from the Local Outcome Framework via the LG Inform platform, providing national and local comparable data. These measures sit alongside and supplement the Council Plan quarterly performance measures, offering additional context. In some cases, data is subject to a reporting lag; the detailed datasets can be found in Appendix 2.
- Percentage of major development applications excluding Planning Performance Agreements (PPA), Extension of Time (EoT) or Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) decided in time (Annual)

- Rate of households with children in temporary accommodation (per 000s households)
- Number of families in Bed & Breakfast accommodation for over 6 weeks
- Percentage of duties owed where homelessness was prevented or relived
- Number of people sleeping rough on a single night (snapshot count)
- Estimated number of people sleeping rough over the month-long term
- Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, and composting (annual)
- Residual was per household (annual)
- Number of fly-tipping actions (per 000s incidents)

6.2.2 The LG Inform platform provides a quantiles dashboard which compares key indicators set out below against other local authority districts. These dashboards sit alongside and supplement the Council Plan quarterly performance measures. In some cases, data is subject to a reporting lag; the dashboard can be found in Appendix 2.

- Average number of days taken to process housing benefit new claims (Quarterly)
- Total households on the housing waiting lists (per 000s households on 31st March)
- Households in temporary accommodation (per 000s households)
- Percentage of minor development planning applications with Planning Performance Agreements (PPA), Extension of Time (EoT) or Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) decided in time (Quarterly)
- Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, and composting (Annual)
- Council Tax not collected as a percentage of council tax due

Climate Change Implications

6.3 There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report. However, several measures within the Environment and Infrastructure priorities contribute to the Council's understanding of progress against its environmental and sustainability objectives, including carbon reduction, waste and recycling and environmental enforcement.

6.3.1 Performance reporting therefore plays an important role in tracking progress and supporting continuous improvement against the Council's environmental and climate-related ambitions set out in the Council Plan.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.4 There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Monitoring performance regularly will assist the Council in effective identification and management of risks. It will also support the management of risks identified around robust decision making and the accuracy/effectiveness of performance data.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Quarter 1 Performance Table 2026/27

Appendix 2: Quantiles dashboard key performance indicators and Local Outcome Framework core outcome metrics (New for 2026/27)

Appendix 3: Corporate Measures Directory (New for 2026/27)